

A1
end

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of selecting the server includes requesting the service from an application side of the communication path.

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of selecting the proxy includes selecting the proxy in response to said requesting step.

17. (Amended) A system for supporting delivery, from a server to an application, of a data stream associated with a service provided by the server, comprising:

an input for receiving a service request; and

A2

a proxy provider apparatus coupled to said input and responsive to the service request for, automatically and without manual intervention, providing in a communication path that is to be used for said delivery a proxy that performs a proxy operation on the data stream during said delivery, said proxy provider apparatus including a portion of said server that is operable for selecting the proxy.

18. (Amended) The system of Claim 17, wherein said portion of said server is operable for selecting the proxy in response to the service request.

19. (Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein said proxy provider apparatus includes a proxy execution server coupled to said portion of said server to receive therefrom a request to install the proxy in the communication path, said proxy execution server operable for installing the proxy thereon in response to said installation request.

A3

21. (Amended) The system of Claim 19, wherein said proxy execution server and said portion of said server are cooperable for coupling said proxy execution server into the communication path.

22. (Amended) The system of Claim 21, wherein said proxy execution server is operable for allocating input and output ports for use in coupling said proxy execution server into the communication path, said proxy execution server further operable for sending to said portion of said server information which identifies the allocated input and output ports.

A3
end
23. (Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein said portion of said server is operable for selecting a plurality of proxies in response to the service request, said proxy provider apparatus including a plurality of proxy execution servers coupled to said portion of said server for receiving therefrom respective requests to install at least one proxy in the communication path, said proxy execution servers operable for installing respective proxies thereon in response to the respective installation requests, each said proxy execution server further operable for sending to said portion of said server information which identifies input and output ports to be used for coupling the respective proxy execution server into the communication path.

40. (Amended) A method of maintaining proxies in a communication path used to deliver from a server to an application a data stream associated with a service provided by the server, comprising:

A4
determining that a first proxy in the communication path is not performing its proxy function within the communication path, including, during delivery of said data stream, a further proxy in the communication path detecting that the first proxy is not performing its proxy function in the communication path; and

in response to said determining step, and automatically and without manual